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Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m.

Agenda item 116: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.46)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.46: Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

1. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.46 was adopted.*

Agenda item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.48)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.48: Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.48 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Pattern of conferences (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.49)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.49: Timely submission of documents

3. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.49 was adopted.*

4. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed regret at the proposed withdrawal of technical support for the Group at the 2009 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. In view of the mandate given to the Secretariat by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution, it was the Group's understanding that the Secretariat would provide it with the same level of services and staffing as in the past, in order for it to participate effectively in that session of the Council.

5. **Mr. Cumberbatch** (Cuba) referred to the lack of conference services for the Human Rights Council, which had been discussed at the Committee's 39th and 40th meetings, and recalled that the Human Rights Council had been established expressly to replace the Commission on Human Rights, which had been discredited by years of selectivity, arbitrary country-specific resolutions and double standards. As the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review mechanism was vital to ensuring universality, objectivity, and non-selectivity in the promotion and protection of human rights, mistaken administrative decisions by the Secretariat should not be allowed to interrupt its work. Such decisions had a major impact on the operations of intergovernmental bodies. The Secretariat must therefore assume its responsibilities for such situations rather than blame Member States. He hoped that the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) review which the General Assembly was requesting in paragraph 6 of the draft resolution would clarify the circumstances that had led to insufficient conference services being made available to the Human Rights Council in 2009.

Agenda item 132: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/25, A/C.5/63/L.50-L.52)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.50: Rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

6. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.50 was adopted.*

7. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, but noted that in the current crisis troop-contributing countries were experiencing major problems because of the slow rate of reimbursement. Her country, for example, had not been reimbursed since the end of 2008 for the troops it contributed to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). All Member States should pay their assessed contributions on time so that countries such as hers could continue to assist peacekeeping operations by providing troops.

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.51: Financing of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.51 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.52: Support account for peacekeeping operations

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.52 was adopted.*

10. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that it was the Group's understanding that the reduction of $4 million in the overall appropriation level would not affect the agreed number and level of support account posts, as set out in annexes I and II to the draft resolution.

Oral draft decision: Closed peacekeeping missions

11. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the following oral draft decision:

"*The General Assembly*,

"(a) *Decides* to return two-thirds of the credits available in the account of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission to the Government of Kuwait in the amount of 996,800 dollars;

"(b) *Also decides* to continue to consider the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions during its sixty-fourth session."

12. *The draft decision was adopted.*

Note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/63/25)

13. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller), introducing the note by the Secretary-General on the financing of the support account for peacekeeping operations and the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/63/25), said that, in accordance with the prorating procedures approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/221 B, the annex to the note reflected the resources to be approved by the General Assembly in respect of each peacekeeping mission, including the prorated shares of the support account and of UNLB.

14. **The Chairman** said he took it that the Committee wished to take note of the information contained in the note by the Secretary-General.

15. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 133: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.43)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.43: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Burundi

16. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.43 was adopted.*

Agenda item 134: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.53)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.53: Financing of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

17. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.53 was adopted.*

Agenda item 135: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.54)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.54: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

18. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.54 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.55)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.55: Financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

19. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.55 was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.56)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.56: Financing of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste

20. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that in paragraphs 25 and 27 of the draft resolution, the amounts corresponding to estimated staff assessment income approved for the Mission should read "5,127,605 dollars" and "2,623,095 dollars" respectively.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.56, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 139: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.47)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.47: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

22. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.47 was adopted.*

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.57)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.57: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

23. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.57 was adopted.*

Agenda item 141: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.58)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.58: Financing of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

24. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.58 was adopted.*

Agenda item 142: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.59)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.59: Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

25. **Mr. Yamazaki** (Controller) said that it was the Secretariat's understanding that the additional general temporary assistance resources referred to in paragraph 11 of the draft resolution were to be used to ensure coordination between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and to assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in implementing activities within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and statement 2008/44 of the President of the Security Council.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.59 was adopted.*

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.60)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.60: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

27. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.60 was adopted.*

Agenda item 144: Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.61)

(a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.61)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.46: Financing of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

28. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.61 was adopted.*

(b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.45)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.45: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

29. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) introduced a number of oral amendments to the text of the draft resolution.

30. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that a single recorded vote had been requested on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution.

31. **Ms. Eilon Shahar** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, expressed her delegation's full support for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which played an essential role in implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and bringing security and stability to the region. However, her delegation was once again forced to break from consensus on the draft resolution in order to express its concern at a highly questionable procedure. There was no precedent whatsoever for one Member State to bear sole financial responsibility for damage sustained by United Nations peacekeeping forces. In every other situation, Member States acted in accordance with the principle of collective responsibility set out in Article 17 of the Charter and absorbed such costs within the general peacekeeping budget; UNIFIL should not be an exception.

32. The practice of calling on Israel to bear financial responsibility for damage sustained by a peacekeeping force contradicted not only the Charter, but also paragraph 8 of the draft resolution itself, which stated that all future and existing peacekeeping missions should be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements. Israel's financial and moral commitment to the objectives of peacekeeping could not be questioned. It was the twenty-third largest contributor to the peacekeeping budget and paid its assessments in full and on time because it respected the collective nature of the financing of peacekeeping operations.

33. *A single recorded vote was taken on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

34. *The fourth preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45 were adopted by 74 votes to 5, with 45 abstentions.*

35. *A recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution as a whole, as orally amended.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.45 as a whole, as orally amended, was adopted by 125 votes to 2.*

37. **Ms. Krahulcová** (Czech Republic), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the States members of the European Union had abstained in the vote on the fourth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of the draft resolution because the text was inappropriate to a resolution on the financing of UNIFIL. The broader political aspects of the incident at Qana had been debated by the General Assembly in April 1996, resulting in resolution 50/22 C of 25 April 1996. The European Union had stated its position on those political aspects at the meeting at which the

Assembly had adopted that resolution. The European Union wished to underline, once again, that the Committee's consultations should have been confined to budgetary issues.

38. **Mr. Khachab** (Lebanon) said that Lebanon observed the principle that the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations was the collective responsibility of all Member States, as reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 55/235. However, the principle of collective responsibility did not contradict the general principle under international law of State responsibility for internationally wrongful acts, including compensation for material damage resulting from such acts.

39. That principle was enshrined in the Charter and implied in paragraph 1 (e) of General Assembly resolution 55/235, which stated that, where circumstances warranted, the Assembly should give special consideration to the situation of any Member States that were victims of, or otherwise involved in, the events or actions leading to a peacekeeping operation. It was on that basis that 16 previous General Assembly resolutions had requested the payment of compensation to the United Nations for the damage incurred as a result of the attack on the peacekeeping post at Qana, which had caused the death of over 100 Lebanese, mostly children and elderly people. That request was reiterated in the fourth preambular paragraph and in paragraphs 4, 5 and 15 of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.45.

40. Lebanon's people and Government thanked the States contributing troops to UNIFIL, which remained the partner of the Lebanese people in the liberation of their land from Israeli occupation and in mine-clearance and development efforts in Southern Lebanon. Lebanon requested that all violations of the Blue Line, whether by air, ground or sea, should be recorded in the UNIFIL performance report. The party responsible for those violations should be indicated clearly.

41. **Mr. Quinlan** (Australia) said that, rather than abstaining in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole, as it had done in the previous three years, Australia had voted in favour, in order to emphasize its long-standing support for the work of UNIFIL, which, in expanded form, played an important role in helping the Lebanese armed forces to enforce Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). However, Australia did not support the addition of political language to a budget resolution, and had accordingly voted against the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 15.

42. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) said that his delegation strongly supported UNIFIL, which was fulfilling an important mandate. However, it was procedurally incorrect to use a General Assembly resolution on funding to pursue claims against a Member State. The United States opposed the current and previous resolutions, which had not been adopted by consensus and required Israel to meet costs stemming from the 1996 Qana incident. Since shortly after the Organization's inception, the practice had been for the Secretary-General to present and pursue its claims against a State or States. Use of a funding resolution to legislate a settlement was inappropriate, politicized the work of the Fifth Committee and must be avoided in the current and future cases.

43. **Mr. Ballantyne** (New Zealand) said that, as a long-standing supporter of the work of UNIFIL, New Zealand had voted in favour of the draft resolution as a whole. The Interim Force, with its expanded role, would help the Lebanese armed forces to enforce Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). However, New Zealand regretted the inclusion of political language in a resolution which should focus only on the current budgetary requirements of UNIFIL. It had accordingly voted against the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 4, 5 and 15.

44. **Mr. Poulin** (Canada) said that Canada continued to regret the inclusion in the annual resolution on the financing of UNIFIL of inappropriate paragraphs on which a separate vote had been requested. The paragraphs in question prevented consensus by undermining a long-held understanding that political considerations had no place in resolutions of a technical nature, including those on the financing of peacekeeping operations, which must be neutral and procedural texts. Moreover, it was inappropriate to target one party for criticism and non-compliance with United Nations resolutions. His delegation hoped that the proponents of the language in the resolution would re-evaluate their actions and withdraw the paragraphs in question in the future. That said, Canada strongly supported the mandate of UNIFIL and the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Agenda item 145: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.44)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.44: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

45. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.44 was adopted.*

Agenda item 146: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.62)

46. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) orally introduced a number of corrections to the text of the draft resolution.

47. *Draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.62, as orally corrected, was adopted.*

Agenda item 147: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.63)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.63: Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

48. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.63 was adopted.*

Agenda item 148: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.64)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.64: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

49. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.64 was adopted.*

Agenda item 149: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.65)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.65: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

50. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.65 was adopted.*

Agenda item 157: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009) (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.66)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.66: Financing of activities arising from Security Council resolution 1863 (2009)

51. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.66 was adopted.*

Agenda item 117: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/63/L.67)

Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.67: Questions deferred for future consideration

52. *Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.67 was adopted.*

53. **Ms. Malcorra** (Under-Secretary-General for Field Support) said that the growing volume and complexity of budgets constituted a challenge both for the Secretariat and for Member States. She was grateful to delegations for their tireless efforts to reach consensus regarding field operations. The Secretariat had made a conscious effort to respond more effectively to requests for clarification and information and she was confident that it would continue to improve. She recognized that the global financial downturn had affected the Committee's deliberations and the Secretariat would do its utmost to ensure that resources were expanded and safeguarded, and that mandates were implemented within the approved budget.

Completion of the work of the Fifth Committee at the second part of the resumed sixty-third session of the General Assembly

54. **Mr. Abdelmannan** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said he understood that any reduction in the overall appropriation for the peacekeeping budget would not affect quick-impact projects. The Group of 77 and China believed that peacekeeping operations must be provided with the necessary resources. That objective was inconsistent with attempts to reduce the peacekeeping budget across the board irrespective of the specific needs of missions. Consideration of missions as a cross-cutting package did not help further their objectives and that approach should not be adopted in future.

55. **Ms. Krahulcová** (Czech Republic), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Agreement country Liechtenstein; and, in addition, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the Committee's lengthy and difficult negotiations had taken into account the size and complexity of the peacekeeping missions. Given the current economic environment, particular importance

had been placed on efficiency. The missions' operational costs might be further reduced through efficiency savings or the reprioritization and redeployment of existing resources.

56. The current part of the resumed session could have concluded sooner and more productively if all of the important documents had been provided on time and in all official languages. More timely issuance of documents, on the part of both the Secretariat and the Advisory Committee, would be critical to the success of the forthcoming session. Ways should also be considered to improve the time management and organization of work of the Committee.

57. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) said that it had been no easy task to balance the need to adequately fund peacekeeping missions against the need to respond to the global financial crisis. While his own delegation would have preferred further reductions, everyone could be satisfied with the responsible decisions that had been taken.

58. The Committee had done well to strengthen the investigative function of OIOS and to endorse the views of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee regarding the filling of OIOS vacancies. The Office must now move diligently to fill its many vacancies in the manner recommended, including senior managerial positions, while safeguarding its unique position and operational independence.

59. The United States had fully supported the hub-and-spoke structure proposed by the Secretary-General and endorsed by the Advisory Committee and IAAC, but it welcomed the compromise establishment of pilot-project investigation centres, in view of the serious concerns of some Member States.

60. **Mr. Patriota** (Brazil) observed that the negotiations that had brought the budgetary process and the functioning of peacekeeping operations to the verge of collapse were an example of how not to proceed in the future. It was irrational for the Security Council to adopt ambitious mission mandates only to have the Fifth Committee deny the funding needed to carry them out. The argument that the economic crisis required cuts in the peacekeeping budget was, moreover, unconvincing, especially in view of the large and growing national military budgets. Those most affected by the economic crisis were the people in conflict-torn areas and they would be further hurt if the missions sent to protect them were underfunded. The idea of an overall budget reduction for peacekeeping, regardless of individual mission requirements, was particularly disturbing. Any responsible budgetary decision must take fully into account the mandate, complexity, specificities and operational conditions unique to each mission, and across-the-board actions must be avoided.

61. **Ms. Samayoa-Recari** (Guatemala) said that the way in which the Committee had worked during the session had been time-consuming and had led only to disputes. She agreed that the budget for each peacekeeping mission should be considered individually in the light of its specific mandate. Member States that kept insisting that peacekeeping budgets should be reduced because of the financial crisis should be reminded of their obligation to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

62. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the African Group, regretted the Committee's unprecedented treatment of the peacekeeping budget that took no account of the specificities of each mission. The insistence on across-the-board cuts in peacekeeping resources had only delayed the conclusion of the Committee's work.

63. **Mr. Mukai** (Japan) noted that, despite the economic downturn, the total approved budget had been higher than ever before and it was therefore all the more important for the United Nations to strengthen its oversight, management and financial control and for the Secretariat to enhance cooperation at the regional level and between missions in order to achieve greater synergies.

64. He regretted the late issuance of documents for the session and the lack of compliance with the six-week rule, which should be incorporated into the Financial Rules and Regulations in order to increase its prominence and enhance cooperation between those responsible for budgeting and documentation in the Secretariat. Further action should be considered to ensure compliance with the rule.

65. The scheduling of the first and second parts of the resumed sessions also required further attention. The Committee should consider holding the second part during the six-week period from mid-May to the end of June, and limiting the first part to a two-week period in March, thereby confining the proceedings to the eight weeks of conference resources allotted to the

Committee. Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations could then be rescheduled to avoid overlap.

66. It was unfortunate that for the second consecutive year, the Committee had been unable to adopt a resolution on cross-cutting issues. On the other hand, it had spent a comparatively long time discussing the support account. That imbalance could be rectified by, for example, alternating annually between the two items.

67. **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh) expressed disappointment at the manner in which the negotiations had been conducted, causing draft resolutions to be adopted late. Peacekeeping was a cheap and cost-effective tool for the maintenance of international peace and security and adequate resources should therefore be provided for that critical work. Yet, for the first time, some members of the Committee had called for arbitrary across-the-board cuts in the peacekeeping budget, without any consideration of the merits of each separate mission, all of which were operating in inhospitable environments under great uncertainty. Cross-cutting issues had been brought in as a pretext for that approach. That situation should not be repeated in the future and the Committee should build on the lessons learned. His delegation also called on all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions.

68. **Mr. Rosales Díaz** (Nicaragua) noted the inherent contradiction in reducing peacekeeping costs at a time when mandates were being expanded and concurred with the criticisms of the recent conduct of the Committee's work. The Committee should learn the lessons from the crisis that had been narrowly averted and never again repeat that approach to the peacekeeping budget and the support account.

69. After an exchange of courtesies in which **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Mexico), **Ms. Rosini** (Italy) and **Mr. Mir** (United Kingdom), took part, the **Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the second part of the resumed sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.